



TOWN OF KINGSTON

Finance Committee

26 Evergreen Street

Kingston, MA 02364

September 20, 2023

Minutes

Call to Order

At 6:45pm Michael Cowett opened the Finance Committee Meeting in Room 203 at the Kingston Town House. Also present were members David Fuller, Derek Billnitzer, Debra Moran, Carl Pike, Elaine Fiore, and Jason Viveiros. Town Administrator Keith Hickey was present and Finance Director Carol McCoy attended via zoom.

New members Elaine Fiore and Jason Viveiros were welcomed.

Reorganization

David Fuller nominated Carl Pike as Chairman, seconded by Debra Moran, passed unanimously. Jason Viveiros nominated Michael Cowett as Vice Chair, seconded by David Fuller, passed unanimously.

Appoint Representatives to Other Committees

Michael Cowett nominated Carl Pike to the Community Preservation Committee, seconded by Debra Moran, passed unanimously.

Carl Pike nominated Michael Cowett to the Capital Planning Committee, seconded by Debra Moran, passed unanimously.

Comments

Carl Pike noted that meetings will be on Wednesday nights from 6-8pm. Any questions on warrant articles should be directed to him and he will reach out to the Town Administrator and Finance Director for responses.

Review Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles

#1 to amend the Regional School Agreement is due to the addition of preschool classes and does not require a vote from the Finance Committee.



TOWN OF KINGSTON

Finance Committee

26 Evergreen Street

Kingston, MA 02364

#2 to pay prior year bills in the amount of \$11,866.89 from unexpended articles.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: David Fuller

Vote: 7-0-0

#3 to transfer \$66,372.00 to Employment Liability Reserve Fund from Free Cash for sick/vacation buy back when someone retires.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: David Fuller

Vote: 7-0-0

#4 to supplement FY24 Operating Budget in the amount of \$420,000.00 was not voted pending further information from Town Administrator. Questions asked about the actual cost of Police Chief search and the significant increase in Employee Benefits.

#5 to supplement grant funding for Evergreen/Pembroke intersection in the amount of \$80,000.00 from Free Cash. Questions asked about why the costs are exceeding the \$400,000.00 grant.

Motion: Carl Pike

Second: Derek Billnitzer

Vote: 6-1-0 (Carl opposed)

#6 to pay for Munis upgrade in the amount of \$50,671.00 from Free Cash. After some discussion the amount was reduced to \$15,000.00 for the training portion only.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: David Fuller

Vote: 7-0-0

#7 to establish an Opioid Stabilization Account in the amount of \$11,542.74 from Free Cash.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: David Fuller

Vote: 7-0-0

#8 to fund Opioid Mitigation in the amount of \$40,000.00 from Free Cash.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: David Fuller

Vote: 7-0-0

#9 to establish a Tax Title Collection Revolving Fund was not voted pending further information from Town Treasurer.



TOWN OF KINGSTON

Finance Committee

26 Evergreen Street

Kingston, MA 02364

#10 to supplement FY24 funding for Tax Title processing in the amount of \$20,000.00 was not voted pending further information from Town Treasurer.

#11 to correct funding from General Fund to Water Enterprise Fund.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: David Fuller

Vote: 6-0-1 (Elaine abstained)

#12 to correct funding from General Fund to Water and Wastewater Enterprise Funds.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: David Fuller

Vote: 6-0-1 (Elaine abstained)

#13 to fund Opachinski Fields drainage improvements in the amount of \$242,762.00 from CPC funds.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: Debra Moran

Vote: 7-0-0

#14 to repurpose Water Dept. use of retained earnings.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: David Fuller

Vote: 6-0-1 (Elaine abstained)

#15 to borrow \$13,000,000.00 for Wastewater leaching fields.

Motion: Michael Cowett

Second: David Fuller

Vote: 6-0-1 (Elaine abstained)

#16 to transfer land from SLRSD to the town does not require a vote from the Finance Committee.

#17 to amend Wage and Personnel By-Law.

Motion: Carl Pike

Second: Michael Cowett

Vote: 7-0-0

#18 to amend Town Meeting By-Law does not require a vote from the Finance Committee.

#19 to amend Finance Committee/Budget Process By-Law was not voted pending further information from Town Administrator.

#20 to amend COA By-Law does not require a vote from the Finance Committee.



TOWN OF KINGSTON

Finance Committee

26 Evergreen Street

Kingston, MA 02364

#21 to amend the Zoning By-Law does not require a vote from the Finance Committee.

#22 to establish New Temporary Repairs to Private Ways By-Law was not voted pending further information from Town Planner and Highway Superintendent.

#23 to grant Eversource an easement on Library property does not require a vote from the Finance Committee.

#24 to accept Prudent Investor Rule was not voted pending further information from Town Treasurer.

Adjourn

At 8:28pm a motion to adjourn was made by Michael Cowett, seconded by Debra Moran, and passed unanimously.

Next Regular Meeting

October 4, 2023 at 6:00pm in room 203 and via zoom